

## ABSTRACT

An electrical connector assembly has a housing and two slide assist members that are slideably supported by the housing. The slide assist members each include at least one mating slot adapted to receive a mating portion of a mating connector. A U-shaped slide assist lever having first and second spaced apart arms is pivotally interconnected with the housing and the slide assist members to move the slide assist members and facilitate mating with the mating connector. Each slide assist member includes a notch and each lever arm includes a protrusion that mates with the corresponding notch when the slide assist member is in an engaged location and the lever is in an engaged position. If the lever is disconnected from at least one of the slide assist members and an attempt to move the lever from a pre-staged position to the engaged position does not correspondingly move the disconnected slide assist member from a pre-staged location to the engaged location, the protrusion functions to interferingly abut the adjacent disconnected slide assist member thereby preventing the lever from moving to the engaged position.